

Dragons Bloodline volume 4

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Ojou-sama's Depression

“Eiii—”

Smash.

“Yaaah—”

Smash.

“Toooh—”

Irina swung her greatsword, smashing down the thieves.

“H-hiii! The hell is this woman!?”

It was a horror. With her greatsword, even though she expected them to be killed, the greatsword gave them a crushing defeat. Extremely absurd.

Even though the bandits started off with fifty people, they quickly dropped to half that number. Fireballs rained down onto those that tried to run.

“You can’t run.”

It was Serge’s magic. In the end, none of the thieves that had aimed at them on the road were left alive.

“Your way of using that sword is awkward.”

Shizuna spoke in an amazed voice. The person in question was puzzled.

You weren’t supposed to just swing the blade with muscle. Such a rare orichalcum greatsword was being swung like a blunt weapon. It probably couldn’t have been helped. To start with, Dragons didn’t use bladed tools.

“Ria, teach this kid.”

In front of them was Ria, scattering the dead thieves’ bodies with beautiful slices.

However, something felt out of place.

Carlos noticed it.

The number of bodies killed by Ria was too few.

“Ojou, what’s wrong...?”

Towards his voice, Ria turned around. She had an unusual expression on her face.

“It looks like there’s no mistaking it...”

Resignation, uneasiness.

“I seem to have gotten weak.”

Her words weren’t convincing.

“In other words, your senses couldn’t keep up with the sudden growth of your body.”

Carlos immediately understood. It was common during boys’ growth periods.

“Yeah, I thought something was off when I was training, but...”

It was like wearing bulky gloves when she gripped the katana.

Even if she cut someone, it felt like she was using a bamboo sword.

“That, and this chest, after all...”

The law of inertia existed in this world as well.

By the great laws of physics, the masses of fat on Ria’s chest were obstructing her.

“Hey Serge, isn’t there a magic that reduces chest size in that grimoire...?”

“I haven’t looked for it, but I don’t think so...”

Serge had no intention to look for it.

Ria’s depression continued.

Arriving in Labyrinth City, they visited Klaus’ mansion and were told the current state of Casalia.

An important minister in the imperial court was assassinated and a high ranking noble was under suspicion.

In brief, the royal court was in a mess.

“Cordova is probably the culprit.”

Ria declared. Though she didn’t have much of a basis, that’s what she believed. The reason was that everything Cordova did was bad.

“No, it would take extreme preparations to assassinate a minister...”

Carlos, who was well informed on matters of defense in the royal court, objected.

“Ah~, how about the demon tribe?”

He nodded at Serge’s opinion, but refused that as well.

“Would the demon tribe invade Casalia’s royal court to assassinate a minister?”

Ria believed that would be harder than having a human do it.

Lulu, who knew about Anise’s magic defense, also agreed.

“Well, they could have induced the assassination.”

“While I don’t know the current state of the royal court’s authority, I think an effective assassination would be impossible.”

At any rate, they didn’t have enough information.

“I could figure it out with Lie Detection though.”

Serge could already use that magic. However, that was no good.

Clarifying the truth through magic was impossible.

“What if the person who used the magic lies? What if they used a magic that countered Lie Detection?”

When Rufus was there, Lie Detection would be used in trials as a last resort.

However, that was because Rufus was an existence of authority by himself.

Even if Ria trusted him, who would believe what an eleven year old kid said?

“Although magic is nearly omnipotent, humans aren’t.”

“Will we return to Anise for now?”

Carlos was the one to propose that.

It’s not like Ria hadn’t thought about their options.

A princess had cleared the Immortal Labyrinth and Dark Labyrinth, acquainted herself to various people of power, and could destroy a kingdom’s strongest knights. She was practically a hero of legend.

If a person like that returned to court, she would probably be a presence. She had been educated by the royal court mage Rufus and would probably get Reyas’ support as well.

“But~, honestly, getting dragged into the royal court’s machinations... I’d like to be excused from that.”

“Rather, what if Nee-chan was king?”

With those words, Carlos and Lulu stiffened.

Though Serge, who was the child of farmers in this world and Japanese in his previous life, didn’t know about it, he thought that

two people who worked at the royal palace would.

“Yeah, that’s good. Anego’s a perfect fit for being king.

Gig agreed easily. Maal nodded repeatedly as well.

“Come to think of it, Casalia’s founder was a queen huh. Isn’t it fine then?”

Shizuna said it in such a way as to make it sound like someone else’s problem.

“You guys...”

While massaging the creases that appeared on her brow, Ria explained.

Ria was an illegitimate child. Her mother was a commoner.

If you were talking about an influential background, she was famed as a person that conquered labyrinths and became connected to powerful people of foreign countries.

Then there were Ria’s younger brothers who were born from her father’s official wives. Those mothers were actual aristocrats and had strong support from within the country.

Would there even be someone that would support Ria becoming queen? No. There definitely wouldn’t. Even her father wouldn’t support her.

If, if Ria were to become king, she would have to erase all members of the royal family, including her younger brothers.

Then despite even if she got rid of the royal family, Ria’s crown wouldn’t be stable as there were other nobles who succeeded the royal family’s blood.

Again, there were also royalty that married into other countries. Those countries could come for Casalia’s throne.

Civil war was out of the question. There was a war.

If it turned into something like the civil war in Istria, it’d become a seriously bad situation.

“It’s like that.”

“Hmmm, but if that’s how it is, the power struggle will continue right?”

Serge folded his arms. Thinking about his previous life’s knowledge, he considered various patterns.

“Wouldn’t it be bad if Cordova came to attack?

“It would be bad, but... well, father would find a compromise

somehow or another.”

Casalia’s King Neyas was capable. An excellent, fair, and cool-headed king.

No matter how much he cherished her, Ria knew that the king wouldn’t give her the rights to the throne due to his honest political sense.

“Nee-chan’s Oyaji-san is... a wise ruler?”

“Well, kind of. Though he might be unskilled at war, it’s fine if he leaves it to his vassals. Casalia will be peaceful so long as father is king...”

Speaking up to there, Ria realized.

Because there’s her father, Casalia was at peace.

So then, if her father was assassinated, what would happen?

“A masterful assassin could assassinate father... what do you think?”

Carlos and Lulu stiffened a second time.

“I don’t think so. Reyas-sama is there, and even though Master Rufus isn’t there anymore, his magic safeguards are impregnable.”

Though Carlos said that, Ria was uneasy.

“For instance, if I tried to assassinate my father, would I be stopped?”

“I wouldn’t stop you, though that’s because Ojou can draw close to His Majesty.”

They would stop suspicious people from approaching. That much defense had been organized.

“So then it’s better to not return after all. Let’s bring these areas together to cooperate.”

A conversation like that had just happened in a room of Klaus’ mansion.

Though the mansion’s owner was there, he was cleared out.

“Let me in on the conversation! Destroy the kingdom!”

Bang! A single girl burst through the door and entered.

Everyone inside the room petrified. It was that abrupt.

Until the door had opened, there was no presence.

The beautiful girl had flaxen hair. However, the ambition she herself had shouted out indicated she wasn't an ordinary person.

Really, how the heck had none of them noticed her?

"No, we're not going to collapse it."

A silver haired elf struck the girl on the head as she entered.

Rather, it should be a dark elf with white skin.

"Ah..."

Serge knew it, but Maal didn't.

The racial effect. You couldn't tell them apart if the color of their skin changed.

"Rei... san?"

"Heya, it's been a while. By the way, Casalia isn't going to be destroyed. At least, it has nothing to do with us."

The Demon General Rei said that with a friendly smile.

Secret Society [Black Cat]

The society was called [Black Cat].

Their main business was transporting luggage quickly, like a black cat. Weaving their way through cracks, they earned faith in being able to deliver cargo between countries.

Though they should be called a company rather than an association, they were called an association because there were a lot of mysteries regarding its leadership.

Although the contents of their business were wholesome, the company director very rarely appeared in public. Its executive staffs' whereabouts were also uncertain.

Above all, with their intelligence gathering and movement in the continent, they were really suspicious.

Six top managers like that were currently in the capital city of Lemdria, a major power in the southwest part of the continent.

"Yes, then the 3496th top summit meeting! Begi~n!"

A girl with scarlet hair extending to her waist shouted that brightly with an excited feeling.

"I'll start from the beginning. We do not know the magic used to cause the Imperial Capital to disappear. This is still being studied. And, that idiot Zeke was protected! The end!"

"Zekefed was? The hero was a man this time right? Why would that woman lover protect him?"

The person with a large build reclined against the wall as they asked.

"Under investigation. However, their group seemed to be heading toward the Istria area."

"Then, I'm next I guess. Looks like Istria is finally settling down the the prince faction's victory. However, since the elder princess was

held as a hostage, it doesn't look like the single push was enough.”
The one to say that was a mage with ordinary features. Having a common elderly atmosphere, they used a large and complicated walking cane.

The one in charge of the Istria region turned their gaze towards a dark skinned youth.

“The demon tribe area is peaceful, still no signs of invasion. However, I think they are building up more and more strength.”

Everyone let out a sigh. Then, the person with a large build raised their hand and spoke.

“The southwestern region is already useless. Labra is in a precarious state.”

It was picked up in their last conference. Now that the empire had disappeared, the only lineage of power left was in Labra.

Because the country had luckily gained its strength rapidly, their policy for the region was to leave it alone to go as it would. It was fine to support them from the shadows.

“As for the northwest, Cordova is still moving to establish its supremacy. Although the dragonslayer was invited, we were bluntly turned down.”

A girl dressed as a man reported that in an incredibly serious tone.

Then, the five's gazes were directed at a man sitting at the round table.

The secret society, Black Cat's, leader.

He opened his serious mouth.

“King Hollyn suspended his invasion to the east, advancing toward's the continent's center.”

Lemdria's king, Ryuke Hollyn. A great man who expanded Lemdria's monarchy into a superpower.

With his desire for territory, even though he'd been aiming for the seven-city alliance to the east for years, he did a major shift in his policy.

The Imperial Capital vanished, the empire. His plan was to cut away some territory. Or perhaps it would be better to say he aspired to.

As the humans lost their anchor for the Millennium, another existence to play the leading role was necessary.

Everyone recognized Lemdria's King Hollyn as being capable, there

was no doubting that.

There was just one problem. He had aged, and who his successor would be afterwards was the problem.

The crown prince was already participating in stately affairs, his ability was being displayed. He was considered to even more capable than his father whose abilities in practical affairs were heroic.

The problem was the youngest prince.

It was too soon to say whether or not he would be incompetent or cruel.

The problem was that he might be even more capable.

Even his father hadn't drawn out of the seven-city alliance for many years after the area was invaded.

When the panicked union begged for a peace conference, the king agreed to it. There was a problem with logistics and he judged that it was impossible to completely conquer the union.

The capable crown prince and the capable prince. Although the two of them had excellent relations with each other, what would happen when King Hollyn died? Just thinking about it was troubling.

"For Lemdria, continue to observe."

The company director continued.

It was like his soul had worn out, his voice was weak despite being young.

Believing that the conference had ended with that, the girl in male attire used the timing to raise her hand.

"The person who cleared the Dark Labyrinth left, should we investigate?"

She was young. Among their members, she was the youngest. To be precise, hers was the only appearance that matched her age.

Therefore, her curiosity was easily drawn. As for greeting the dragonslayer, that was her own decision.

Be that as it may, Black Cat wanted to bring in those talents that stood out, so it could be said she did well.

"It's not really necessary. If the person is related to Cordova, it will be necessary to investigate their movements though."

The director judged so. However, the difference in his sensitivity to information was the deciding difference between him and the Demon

King.

The conference ended. Not a single serving of tea had been prepared during the conference, but that was how it usually was.

“So, with that.”

The youth with brown skin, the Great Sage Azelford, disappeared.

“Next time then.”

It was the same with the common-appearing mage as well, they calmly used a teleportation magic unseen on this continent.

“Troublesome... Well, see ya.”

The scarlet-haired girl also left by way of teleportation magic.

“Then director, take care of yourself.”

The too-serious girl dressed in male clothing bowed her head, also vanishing.

The remaining people were large-built man and the director, who placed his elbows in the table while covering his mouth with his hands.

“Hey, Yamato.”

The large man called out to the director.

“That posture, won’t you stop it?”

“Why? Shouldn’t you be saying that a posture like this fits a great man like me?”

Right, he said that about himself.

It was foolish. It was simply youthful passion.

“Well then, I’ll head out too.”

“You were able to learn the teleportation magic?”

“Nah. I took a look at it and passed.”

Waving, the man walked out the door.

The Black Cats’ director, Yamato, was left alone.

He stood up, grumbling to himself like an old man in the process.

In truth, he was old. Not physically, but his spirit. It was nearing its limit. However, he couldn’t abandon his duty.

He looked up into the sky from the glass window. Out of the corner, one could see the appearance of a gigantic imperial castle.

A warhammer and a katana exchanged blows.

With extreme intensity, their offense and defense held hints of elegance.

Together with a particularly intense collision, they both flew away.

“Muu...”

Setting down his warhammer with a dull thud, the Ogre King groaned.

“You’re stronger than before. But, how do I say it... your technique isn’t beautiful.”

It was a difficult thing to explain. However, it felt something like that. Facing him, Ria also felt that was enough. She had also sensed it.

Ria’s group, who had left Labyrinth City, were now at the ogre village.

By calling the Ogre King out, all of the ogre village chiefs were to assemble. They were waiting for them now.

Using that time, Ria trained with the Ogre King. Though Irina was also a good opponent if they fought with ordinary weapons, when it came to freely using techniques in a fight, she was obviously lacking in skill.

“It might be troublesome, but I’d like for you to continue being my opponent.”

“Well, I have no problems with it.”

The ogres were a race that liked to fight.

The others in her party also spent their free time training.

While waiting for the ogres, as well as waiting to be contacted by the demon tribe.

That night—

The demon tribe’s grand manager Asuka also abruptly appeared in front of Ria’s group.

Before she said something unnecessary, Rei shut her up her with a choke hold. Only the people who knew the circumstances in detail talked.

That is, Ria, Serge, Rei, and Asuka.

“Before anything, Asuka-san.”

Serge looked up and asked.

"I permit you to speak, boy."

"Thank you. By some chance, were your and Rei-san's names decided by Demon King-sama?"

"You're well informed."

"It's just, Demon King-sama used characters from my original world."

"Right! That's right!"

Asuka suddenly became familiar with him right then and there.

To say nothing of the demon tribe's printing technology, it even had manga.

Hearing that, Serge quite seriously thought about moving to the demon tribe territory, but only jokingly.

... Demon King-sama, be moderate in your cultural pollution.

"In other words, you're here to give information on Cordova?"

Asuka nodded grandly towards Ria's question. Though she saw through the meaning of her question, she still nodded.

The reason was simple, an enemy's enemy was an ally.

For the demon tribe, although human society was their enemy, individual humans weren't. There were even humans in demon tribe territory after all.

As for those who made the demon tribe their enemy, they denied members of the demon tribe, expulsing them.

Specifically speaking, Cordova was a country of human supremacists.

If Ria's group were hostile to Cordova, they wouldn't mind assisting them.

"With my magic, it's easy to talk over long distances."

Since Asuka was excessively talking about her abilities, Rei frequently kept her from talking.

Isn't this girl a bit simple?

Although it was disrespectful, Serge thought so.

"We came to talk with you but..."

Their discussion quickly halted.

Asuka looked at Ria with feverish eyes and spoke.

“Your blood, can I suck it?”

“Refused, sorry.”

“Don’t say something like that. Even a bit’s fine. Just the tips would go in.”

In this case, she just meant that she would pierce her with her fangs for a moment.

“I’m good at sucking. Everyone even says I’m great at it.”

“When it comes to sucking, don’t you have servants for that?”

“Ah, it’s alright, it’s alright. Those people don’t have charm resistance or disease resistance. Besides, it’s fine even if I don’t suck any.”

“If that’s how it is... as a reward then?”

“Hoho.”

If the information she brought turned into being to their benefit, their talk was settled in the direction of her giving some blood.

Hearing their conversation, Rei was troubled.

Serge was dying from the moe.

The Rogue Ojou of Hell

What Ria felt was unmistakably fear.

“Well, it might be possible if it’s you guys.”

Although the Ogre King said it easily, he knew that it wouldn’t be that easy.

It might not be impossible to do. She was confident of that. However, in the one to one thousand chance, they might not be able to.

As a military person, as a woman.

Ria felt fear.

All of the ogre tribes were involved in Ria’s strategy for Cordova.

Although the Ogre King assured her many times, Ria was a human woman. There was no way that the various village heads would approve the idea of mobilizing all of the ogre warriors under her.

What should she do then? It was simple. Ogres valued strength. This person thought it would be fine to just show off her overwhelming might.

To do that, just defeating the Ogre King was insufficient. Yeah, that wasn’t enough.

Everyone had to consent. Then how would she make them?

She would fight the warriors. It’d be fine, probably. She hoped.

No weapons. Other than killing the opponent, the only thing prohibited was targeting the crotch. One-on-one, one hundred consecutive fights. No rest.

A fight against one hundred people.

That, and she shouldn’t perfectly control her body.

“Well, are there any demerits if you’re defeated?”

Shizuna said so.

Her other comrades were inwardly worried about there being one hundred opponents.

It wasn't a certainty. Although she might not get all of the ogres' cooperation, getting nothing wasn't a negative.

Pay money? No, money didn't mean much to ogres.

Influence? Would ogres be charmed by prestige and influence in human society?

"How about this magic sword I obtained in the labyrinth?"

Carlos volunteered. It was an attractive offer, but the weapon was too small for ogres.

"If anything, you should give us that Beauty-san there for a night."

The ogre said, laughing to himself pleased.

Ria invoked her newly unleashed Gift, [Dragon Eyes]. Together with being able to cause low level opponents to shrink away, it was an excellent Gift that could use Identify.

The ogre that seemed to be dirty-minded was Level 90. However, it wasn't an opponent she couldn't win against bare-handed.

A chill ran up her spine. Like when she dressed up for a party, when the son of a marquis touched her rear.

Would she wager her chastity? To ogres? What kind of eroge was this?

"T-that's fine."

Her voice trembled.

"Aren't you all wagering your bodies?"

If they all gave her their lives to risk, what else could be used to pay?

Right. Ria would do it! She would shoulder tens of thousands of ogre lives!

"Ah, I'm in too then."

"Me too."

"Yeah."

"This guy too."

"I'll go for it."

"Booyah!"

"I shall also."

"I'll accept your wager!"

... Handfuls of ogres raised their hands one after another. There were women voices mixed in, but it might have been her imagination. She got one hundred lewd ogres. Ria heard the sound of her blood pumping for the first time. She hadn't even felt it during her previous life— More than fear, it was terror.

“I-if Ria's betting her body, so will I!”
Lulu shouted. Her friendship almost had Ria in tears.
“If Lulu-san bets it, I will as well.”
(Carlos, you go and quiet down for a moment.)
Gig didn't participate, he had prudence as expected.
Maal was teary-eyed, and Shizuna, whose words caused this situation, was greatly troubled.
Irina was puzzled, but she didn't understand the meaning to begin with.
Serge was also thrown into a cold sweat due to Ria's determination. He believed it. To a man, there were two things that had to absolutely be avoided in life.
To go anal with a man, and to steal another's woman.

Ria, who was a man in her previous life, declared that she liked women even now. That was the meaning of her betting her chastity. (I get it... something like a man's pride doesn't mean much in front of woman's chastity, huh.)
Ria seriously thought that.

In her previous life, it wasn't that there weren't any women martial artists that requested to fight her.
Ria had just defeated them all. If you paid attention to your crotch and being blinded by tricks, the difference in endurance was clear. Although women that bit were dreadful, after that, women that continued to bite while having reckless sex were also recklessly stimulating.
Now, her position was quite the opposite.
“S-sorry. Saying something like...”

Shizuna stood in front of Ria, who was trying to proceed to the battlefield.

She was panicking. Although she had a grudge against Ria, it didn't go to that extent.

Rather, now...

"Don't worry about it. They'd be leaving their lives in my hands after all. Same with me, it would be unfair if I didn't wager everything I had."

Ria spoke with an awesome grin.

"However."

Her grin disappeared.

"After saying those unneeded words, as for not betting anything... isn't that unfair?"

Shizuna could feel some murderous intent.

She almost wet herself. No, if you bladder hadn't been empty, she would have shown an immodest appearance.

Ria whispered in her ear.

"My prize for if I win... I'm going to take you all night long. Prepare yourself."

Her legs falling out from under her, Shizuna landed on her bottom.

Then, the fight started.

"Begin!"

At the Ogre King's Signal, the first man came out. It was that Level 90 ogre.

His upper body was naked. Throwing techniques and choking techniques almost couldn't be used at all.

"Hyaha—!"

Ria showed no mercy in her thrusting technique towards the man rushing at her with open hands. His nose broke.

However, he still clung to Ria with some power. Both her arms were sealed.

"Hehehe, you smell good~"

The ogre's vulgar voice full of lust cause Ria's back to fill with goosebumps.

“Hmph!”

Ria shook off the ogre with her arms.

“Ah?”

Ogres had the Gift [Herculean Strength]. However, Ria recently unleashed the superior Gift to it, [Superhuman Strength].

She decided to head butt his broken nose. The ogre released her on reflex.

With her fist, she broke his rib this time.

The ogres went silent.

“That’s it. Next!”

The convulsing ogre was carried out, the next ogre stepping forward despite being confused.

Her long, long fight had began.

She pierced.

She fractured.

She smashed.

Ria finally took her upper body’s clothing off, fighting with what looked like a sports bra on.

Things like armor and clothing would just been used by her opponents to hold on to and were unimportant. Her hair had been tied up behind her head.

She was beautiful.

At the start, Serge had proposed supporting Ria secretly with acceleration magic, but she quickly refused him.

Something like that was inelegant. And foul play.

She was noble.

“Why, Nee-chan...”

When he looked at Ria’s fighting figure, tears appeared without him realizing.

Still, he continued to think it.

“Wouldn’t it have been easy with long range magic?”

Besides, no one would have realized.

Half of the ogres were defeated.

Despite being painted with sweat and spurts of blood, the girl was beautiful.

Rather, that's why she was beautiful.

The ogres stepping up were growing more weary.

Then, a small ogre stepped forward.

"Ogres are the strongest."

The small ogre muttered.

The ogre stood in front of Ria. He continued to speed. Ignoring that Ria's endurance was recovering, he continued to speak.

"However, although they are strong, they focus on simply punching each other."

In a derisive tone, the Ogre continued.

"You, you use grappling techniques yeah? Not just strength, but technique yeah?"

Right, the base of Ria's empty-handed fighting style was Jujutsu.

"I've wanted to fight against an opponent like that!"

The ogre shouted. It was a shout from his soul.

But his nether regions were already standing tall!

The ogre started to tackle her from a low posture.

If this were wrestling, it would have been easy to break the tackle.

However, even though he's small, her opponent is an ogre. There was a weight difference of almost two-fold.

If he slipped, he could be thrown. Therefore, Ria had one thing to do.

A merciless knee to the face!

It was a direct hit. However, the ogre moved his hands to Ria's face after that.

He was able to easily lift Ria's light weight. After that, he threw her to the ground.

If she were an ordinary person, her neck would likely have broken. Even Ria took some damage from it.

A concussion. Even Dragons couldn't nullify brain damage.

She didn't get back up. This was for pinning techniques.

However, there was no pursuit.

Ria stood up while shaking her head, seeing that the ogre had already fainted.

Even though he lost consciousness, he still threw Ria.

A frightening enemy.

Still fainted, he stood tall and hadn't lost strength.

He really was a frightening enemy.

"Seriously, such a pathetic man."

Standing in front of Ria was an ogre than in every respect looked like a woman.

"So proud every day, but look what happened when push came to shove."

Though she was a woman, there was no mistaking her might. No, her spirit.

Ria faced her, still not recovered from the fall damage yet. Even the High Speed Recovery Gift seemed to be ineffectual for concussions.

"Start!"

The woman confronted Ria. Her eyes were filled with both lust fighting spirit.

"You have a beautiful face."

"I think so too."

"Such a beautiful face... I want to make it howl!"

The woman lightly closed her fists, taking up a half-body stance.

When she realized it, there was a fist in front of her face.

When she realized it, her face had been hit.

Her Avoidance Skill and Mind's Eye Skills weren't working.

This was the first clean hit she'd taken so far.

(Boxing...)

It was a similar movement. Punching without any motion beforehand.

The basis of the straight right was different from Karate, coming from Wushu.

But boxing had a definite weak point.

From a low posture, Ria went to tackle.
She had went to attack the lower half of her body. However, the ogre's flexible leg intercepted her.
Like a whip, Ria was struck.
(Is it Muay Thai?)
She took a distance away. The woman's fighting technique wasn't normal.
"What do you want to do? Acknowledge your defeat?"
She licked her lips. So as expected, this woman's purpose was also Ria's body?
Would she acknowledge defeat? Definitely not.
Though Muay Thai was an amazing fighting style, she could deal with it.

Ria slowly closed the distance.
Her legs moved as they should, she'd recovered.
Outside of her consciousness, Ria closed the distance.
Her slow movement was because of exhaustion.
In reality, it was quite the opposite. She used her muscles for a burst of speed.
Not noticing Ria begin her attack, she was at her.

Ria tackled her waist, lifting the ogre up before dropping her back to the ground with an overhead throw.
From there she went into a stranglehold. She was a woman ogre and was properly wearing clothing. Her carotid artery tightened, she fainted.
"That's it!"

Ria stood up.
"The Ladykiller Valka couldn't..."
"Even Valka was no good...?"
(So this woman ogre has the same alias as me huh?)
Ria bowed to the still-fainted ogre woman before regaining her stance.
"Now, come at me!"

Seventy-seven people were defeated.

The seventy-eighth didn't step up.

Right, everyone had already recognized her.

The girl in front of them had become a goddess to the ogres.

"Excellent."

The Ogre King declared.

"With this, the hundred person fight has come to an end!"

Kneeling in place, the Ogre King shouted.

"We recognize you as the Ogre Queen! The lives of our ogre warriors are all for you!"

Every last one of the ogres knelt, as though worshiping a god.

This was the birth of the Ogre Queen Ryuke Riana Crystal Casalia Ogruss.

A Red Flower Blooms

“So, you were trying to run?”

Sitting obediently in front of Ria on the bed in a seiza was Shizuna.

“I caught her since she was being suspicious, did I do good?”

Asuka the Vampire, the other person in the room, asked.

“Yeah, you did. It’s been quite a day.”

Making use of the dark to slip away, she tried to secretly run away from the village, but was suddenly caught by Asuka.

“I see. Won’t you keep your promise?”

Hearing the circumstances, Asuka spoke with her arms folded in a posture that held the air of superiority.

“B-but we’re both women!”

Although she wasn’t really acquainted with her, since they were both women, she would understand just how abnormal Ria was being.

However, common sense didn’t apply to Asuka.

For Vampires, beings who lived nearly immortally, something like discriminating love based on gender wasn’t something they cared much about.

The Vampires’ low fertility rates were also probably related.

That, and there were things like BL and GL in demon tribe territory, too. This wasn’t only due to Demon King-sama, though.

“Isn’t it fine? I also usually suck from girls.”

“Eh?”

Suck, what did that mean?

“Besides, if it’s this child...”

Again, Asuka thoroughly looked Ria up and down.

There was no element of being lewd in the gaze, it was simply the admiration of her beauty.

“Un, I would sleep with this child.”

“That so? As for me... right, I wouldn’t sleep with you.”

It was impossible.

Shizuna's parents were a married couple with good relations with each other.

With Shizuna being the eldest, there were three children.

A man, a woman, and children. That was the normal setup.

If, and only if, she herself were a man, she would probably fall in love with Ria. She would probably treat her as a goddess. There was no one else as beautiful as her.

If Ria were a man...

She, probably, no, definitely would...

But that was just a 'just if' story.

"... With that, my report on information regarding Cordova is concluded. Well, my reward?"

"Can't be helped huh. Come here."

In front of Shizuna, Ria took off her coat, exposing her white skin to Asuka.

"Hehe, itadakimasu."

Right in front of Shizuna.

Asuka applied her lips to the muscle on Ria's shoulder.

As for what emotion she felt at that instant, Shizuka didn't know.

But it was similar to anger.

"Phew, thanks for the treat."

"W-what was that just now..."

"Eh, let's see~, a kiss?"

She had to keep herself being a Vampire a secret for now.

The blood had already stopped flowing because she sucked from her skillfully and was just a little red.

"Now then, my turn."

Relaxing her chest, Ria pulled Shizuna's hand.

She was strong. Easily more so than a man.

Shizuna was thrown down onto the bed.

"It was a promise."

"Eh, but..."

Her voice was weak. Being requested so strongly, how could she not

reciprocate?

“If you’re a warrior, resolve yourself.”

“Som—”

Before she could say something to refuse, her lips were blocked.

It was a short kiss. But it was repeated many times. In the extremely small breaks between them, her breathing became strained.

“Oooh~, a technician~”

Asuka was watching with a broad grin, but her cheeks were also slightly flushed.

“Hey, how long are you going to stay here?”

“Eh? I can’t watch? But that child’s reactions are so cute and innocent.”

“N-no...”

Weakly, Shizuna answered her.

“At least... first time... two people only...”

“Ah, right. Then I’m just a nuisance here.”

Asuka left the hut prepared for Ria’s exclusive use.

She left with the words ‘Devil Wings’, but no one saw it.

“Now, let’s continue.”

While kissing her deeply, Ria’s hands groped Shizuna’s body. Carefully, she stripped off her clothes piece by piece.

“This time, stick your tongue out some more for kissing.”

Sticking out her tongue as she was told, it was lightly nibbled. A sweet pain ran through her hips.

Tears fell.

Ria stopped moving.

“Y-you’re...”

“Why me, why would you like me?”

Filled by a sensation, Ria wanted to click her tongue.

She wanted to tease Shizuna, but that didn’t mean she wanted her to feel insecure.

Of course, she would let her go if she seriously didn’t like it.

However, she could currently feel her pulse throbbing through her

palms. Wasn't that in response to Ria's movements?

"Although I don't understand the meaning of something like true love... at least since my birth, this was the first time I've wanted to embrace someone from the bottom of my heart. Shizuna's my first."

"Really? What about Lulu?"

"She's like family to me. I just massage her breasts."

"This is also... umm.. Ria's first time?"

"Just knowledge, but it's wasted."

"I-is that so..."

Shizuna's stiffened body relaxed.

She softened under Ria's hands.

"If that's it, it's alright."

Shizuna wasn't crying anymore.

"If it's Ria, it's alright."

With a rustle, Ria took off her clothes.

"I'll be gentle."

"Un."

Her white skin was exposed.

"Ria..."

Shizuna's arms wrapped around Ria's neck.

Ria's soft breasts touched Shizuna's.

They were tender, and warm. Shizuna didn't know it would feel so good with nothing stopping their skin from touching directly.

"Spread your legs a little."

With her fingers, Ria spread open the area between Shizuna's thighs.

"Hah..."

Mixed into her fervent breathing was a seductive voice.

"It's alright, I'll definitely get you wet."

"Don't..."

Ria gently teased Shizuna's sensitive part, going no farther than that. With regular movements, as well as irregular movements. She would occasionally lightly flick it, stopping when Shizuna was about to cry. Each time, Shizuna would dig her nails into Ria's pain, it was a sweet pain.

"Ah, your fingers..."

“Don’t worry, I’ll put in a little at a time.”

Her middle finger moved systematically, with her thumb moving erratically. Her left hand was gentle as it massaged her tender breast, occasionally twisting her nipple.

And she kissed her again and again.

“Now, part two.”

Shizuna raised her voice from the sweet pain.

“Are you alright?”

“It’s painful and it feels good... it’s strange somehow...”

Shizuna also traces her lips along Ria’s shoulder.

“Is Ria also... wet?”

“It feels goood.”

Towards her honest impression, Shizuna laughed for a moment.

“Hey, for a moment... this might hurt a bit, please endure it.”

“Un.”

Shizuna’s chastity was taken away by Ria’s finger.

It was scary.

It was Ria who was scared.

What she was afraid of was that she might have actually fallen in love with this person.

“Hey, can I ask for just one thing?”

“Un?”

“About today, please don’t talk about it.”

“This?”

Ria moved nastily.

Moving close to Shizuna’s ear, Ria whispered.

“I won’t. I promise.”

Due to hearing the sound of a sword being swung, Shizuna woke up. It wasn’t actually a sword, but it was a katana.

It was still dark in the hut. The only thing that would reveal Shizuna’s nakedness was just a dim light made from magic.

Thinking back to the previous night’s disaster, Shizuna felt a bit gloomy. If someone saw, it would have been obvious what was

wrong.

“Ria...”

She faintly called Ria through the window.

Swinging her katana, even calling her a beautiful person wouldn't be enough.

Ria immediately noticed and headed back to the room. She saw a red stain on the bed and scratched her cheek.

“Isn't it fine if we wash it?”

“But I'd die of shame if it were exposed!”

“Well, I'll just use magic for now...”

Using washing and drying magic, the traces disappeared. But the sheet might have dried a bit too much.

“This should be enough. Is your body alright?”

Like always, Ria asked.

Shizuna's response was different from usual.

“Un, I'll get healing magic.”

“That's unreasonable.”

Even though Ria was always being unreasonable.

Shizuna laughed. Her smile made her seem like a flower.

“Hey Ria, be my sword opponent.”

And so, the two shared sword blows to share their love.

Goodbyes are Just a Part of Life

(What happened...)

Serge wondered. Something happened. There was no mistaking it. However, he didn't understand exactly what happened.

Right now, their group was heading to Maal's hometown. Thinking that they would be separating soon, Serge was a bit lonely.

But, as though compensating for the loneliness, Shizuna was being friendly.

Nestling between Maal and Ria, she was being looked at with eyes similar to a mother's.

To be exact, her stinging attitude toward Ria had disappeared.

Her forced rudeness was gone, she even looked feminine.

What happened in this short time?

It seemed like she was seriously contemplating the words said in the ogre village. It was like she'd turned into another person.

"I think it's a good trend though?"

Lulu said that, and he agreed with her.

Shizuna seemed to have grown as a human.

He consulted other people too, but Carlos wasn't interested in human women. Gig was an innocent child when it came to subtleties like that. Even asking Irina would have been useless.

So, he had to brood on it alone.

On a day like that, they were on the evening before the day they would arrive at Maal's hometown.

"Let's have a talk."

Since he called that out to Ria, they separated a bit from the rest of the group into the woods.

[You're a man yeah?]

Naturally, he asked in Japanese.

[Do I look like a woman? I'm the same man I was in my previous life.]

Ria nodded with a hmph.

[If you're a man, why the secrecy?]

[I wouldn't be talkative about it, but I will absolutely keep the promise if I'm told to not saying anything.]

Again, Ria nodded with a hmph.

[We're comrades that have trusted our lives to each other. Can't best friends talk with each other?]

[Persistent.]

Since they were speaking in Japanese from the start, you might think they were talking about an extraordinary secret.

[This is an absolute secret. In truth, I slept with Shizuna in the ogre village.]

Huh?

[But I though Valis said—]

[H-hold up. Hold up a second. I said sleep, umm, that's—]

She swallowed back her saliva.

[H-how did you do it?]

[Ah~, that's...]

It was hard to explain. Even though Serge had also heard everything Valis said.

[Though I thought that I might be able to turn back into a man if I really tried...]

Since she wasn't able to turn back, she made good use of her previous life's knowledge, turning Shizuna into a woman while still being a woman herself.

Ria told him.

[You're the worst.]

For the first time, Serge despised Ria. It was the fastidiousness particular to a virgin.

[No, but, I didn't think she'd be so cute...]

It could also be called the shame of a man being unable to resist the feast in front of him.

Hearing the whole story, Serge consented. There was no helping it.

Honestly, to be frank, it was because he really felt envious.

[So, you went with the Shizuna route?]

Since this wasn't a game, it didn't mean they would pair up in the end.

Actually, you'd have sex with them! You would spend time in happiness together from then on! Stuff like that didn't happen in reality.

[But I don't know how to turn back into a man anymore...]

Ria was telling him that she didn't know what to do, but since even the God Dragon-sama couldn't answer, neither could Serge.

To the end, all of Serge's knowledge was just as an otaku virgin.

[Well, now I understand why Shizuna's seemed incredibly happy recently.]

[Even though that's good...]

She folded her arms.

Ria was a person of common sense. She just happened to calmly exceed common sense. She properly knew what common sense was.

If you were to think about the world's common sense in general, it was natural for a man and woman to be together. There were the eyes of other people, and they couldn't make children.

As far about the eyes of others, she didn't care about being seen if it was just a problem for herself. But it was a different story if it was for her partner.

She wanted to make Shizuna happy. That's what she felt.

If she were to choose another man for her...

He would have to match up to Vargas, or he'd probably have to surrender himself to her father's fury.

[Well, Shizuna's calmed down, so that's good. Maal will be leaving soon though.]

Ria was obviously depressed by those words.

Their group would arrive at Maal's hometown the following day.

They would separate from Maal there. They wanted her to live quietly in happiness.

Although she felt lonely, Ria wished for that strongly.

The beastkin village was supported primarily by hunting.

When Ria's group arrived at midday, a number of people were in the village.

The village went into an uproar when they saw a group that had a hellhound, but calmed down when they saw Maal's figure.

While calling out her acquaintances' names, Maal ran into the group of people.

Before long, beastkin of the same breed as Maal ran out of the inner part of the village.

The man and woman beastkin were probably her parents, the small beastkin her siblings.

Aah, they hurried a bit too fast. They fell down.

"Maal!"

The beastkin that seemed to be her mother embraced Maal tightly.

Other beastkin gathered around Maal as well, she was being jostled around by them.

It was a kingdom of soft fluffiness.

(Welcome home, Maal.)

She was happy.

That day, Maal returned to home for the first time in a long time.

Ria's group was taken to the village chief's house.

Accordingly, she spoke of the big alliance that would include the ogres and beastkin.

"So suddenly, it's hard to believe..."

The white-bearded cat beastkin spoke carefully.

"Yeah, I understand."

Ria also agreed. Even though she was a person that saved one of their village's children from slave hunters, they wouldn't trust a human so easily.

However, they wanted to express their gratitude. For that reason, they provided them with dwelling.

"I want you to tell the surrounding villages about it. In a little while, a formal messenger should be sent from the ogre village."

The message wasn't to submit under their rule.
It was a request to fight together.

"The villages in this area are all angry about Cordova's slave hunting."

In the case of Cordova subjugating a human village, they could pay a tax in exchange for defense. It was a different story for beastkin though.

Cordova was a country of human supremacists. They looked down on everything that wasn't human, removing people that disagreed.

Heavy tax, severe labor, but nevertheless due to its laws, the country settled itself under the king.

It was inhuman, but it was a powerful nation. That was Cordova.

From here on Ria's group would visit and speak to the dwarves.

Though the race of dwarves were dexterous with their hands, they were above all a warrior race of blacksmiths.

Their physical robustness was not at all inferior to, or maybe even surpassed, the ogres'. Still, they didn't think to build nations that took up large areas.

"Seeking their cooperation might be hard..."

"However, if I can turn the dwarves into comrades, I want you to prepare the beastkin race as well."

The village chief thought for a while, but nodded strongly before long.

"If you can make those crusty dwarfs your comrades, we beastkin will join as well."

"After this, we'll be going to Manesh. They oppose Cordova as a human country, so we should go there first."

Above all, the Dragonslayer was there.

The nation's capital was attacked by a wicked dragon before, two percent of its citizens were killed in a single breath.

It was opposed by five heroes. Now, three of them survive.

The princess that survived was turned into the present queen, the [Queen of Dragon Eyes] Guinevere Sarion Manesh.

Piercing through the wicked dragon's heart, the one said to finish it, the [Sage Knight of Silver] Carla Raparb Uslan.

No one knows where they came from, [Nanashi], the anonymous John

Doe mage.

She'd heard about them from stories, but she really wanted to meet them. And fight them if possible.

If she met John Doe, she'd probably quip about him being a reincarnator at full strength.

"Manesh is also open-minded towards beastkin."

She wanted to add their power as an ally by all means.

The next morning, Maal stood in front of Ria's group as they were leaving village.

Maal was wearing in travelling attire.

"Thirteen years old is already old enough to be an adult for beastkin. I want to stay with Ria-chan, can't I?"

"You can!"

Ria embraced Maal tightly, lifting her up and twirling in circles.

"You can! You really can!"

Continuing until Maal's eyes were spinning, she finally calmed down and spoke.

"Although, it would be better for you to stay with your parents and siblings for a while. We'll come back here from the dwarf village after all."

Maal's family were happy with her proposal as well.

Their eldest daughter they thought they'd lost had returned alive. Even though they were so happy, she said she'd wanted to leave already.

To return their gratitude, they wanted to respect their daughter's feelings even if they were painful.

However, they wanted to stay together even if it were just for a little longer.

"Maal-chan, are you staying?"

Irina spoke in a lonesome tone. She was the person she was most attached to.

So she proposed again. To be together with Irina, to learn this world's common sense.

If she was going from journey to journey every day, she wouldn't be able to quietly sit down and be taught things.

"Onee-chan and Maal-chan, which should I choose...?"

It was a problem.

Although it was a rare thing for Irina to brood about something, Ria decided to leave Irina there.

In truth, Maal had been the one to look after her the most so far. In the dwarf village they'd be going to after this, there was a high possibility for a lot of time to be taken by political maneuvering.

"Alright, we're off then."

"See you soon."

The two waved their hands, and were waved back to in return. Their group departed from the beastkin village.

As for why this was the right decision, that was a story for a bit later.

It's said that goodbyes are just a part of life.

However, if you didn't meet anyone, goodbyes were also impossible.

Though you could meet people you bid farewell once again.

While she felt a little lonely, Ria kept on her journey with her chest filled with anticipation for their reunion.

The Dwarven Race

The dwarven race was looked down on.

Until now, they hadn't met any dwarves. Dwarves were excellent blacksmiths and craftsmen, and without fail would have workshops set up in big cities. In metropolises like Anise, they would build up orderly communities.

However, the dwarves' true home was different.

When dwarves didn't worry about the eyes of other races, there were like another race altogether.

To start with, the image of them being stubborn workers wasn't wrong.

Take their weapon shops for instance.

At least if you were to talk about what is said in their workshops...

Iron! Sometimes, mithril! Occasionally, orichalcum!

But this wasn't everything that the dwarven race was.

They were even more extreme if you went to their house. One sake, two sake, three sake, even five of them. They heartily enjoyed their sake, continuing on with their work the next day, silently waging war against metal.

The first to escape was Lulu. She was a delicate elf, so they ignored her.

Serge was trembling like a bouncy maiden, he avoided harm since he was a child.

Gig couldn't pass as a child. His huge build getting smashed was laughed at.

Carlos? That thing rolled into a ball like some garbage in the corner of the bar was his body?

Even though Shizuna was unexpectedly strong against the sake, she was still within the scope of a human's common sense. Drowning in the dwarven wives' fruit liquors, she continuously vomited a mass of gold in the end.

Ria fought.

Only Ria fought.

Let's spell out the memories of that sublime battle here.

In a large dwarven settlement, where should one go to meet the highest ranking dwarf?

The answer: the largest smithy.

Getting information about it and going down the road they were told about, there was a large smithy made of wood.

Hearing the incessant strikes against metal from within, it wasn't likely that they would be able to normally get anyone's attention.

Here, Ria leveraged her [Roar] Gift.

The wooden building shook. At any rate, it was at a volume that would stupefy the average human.

"The heck, so noisy."

An old dwarf with a calm face came out, the head foreman.

Ria passed over the letter she'd held on to from the Ogre King.

Its contents were simple. From having a bout against Cordova, to requesting the arrangement of weapons, to also offering their war potential if they could.

"Hmm."

Bufuuu. The head foreman exhaled from his nose.

"Bring it on. Cordova has been a thorn in our side for a while now."

They heard from him that dwarven slaves were forced to produce weapons.

The head foreman continued with a, "However."

The dwarf village was an autonomous organization of a great number of foremen gathered together. Though he could more or less act as a mediator, he couldn't decide everything himself.

Dwarves were a race that weren't suited towards having a structured system after all.

"So, was that all?"

The head foreman's glance kept flickering towards Ria's waist. More accurately, towards the katana sheathed there.

"Right, take a look at this. What do you think of it?"

Presenting Nagasone Kotetsu, still in its scabbard, she passed it to the head foreman. He smoothly unsheathed it.

“A katana, huh...”

With earnest eyes, the foreman gazed at the blade.

His eyes were chilling.

“This is... a worthy specimen. It doesn't look like it can take in magic, but it should easily be able to cut through mithril. But just how was it forged...?”

“Head foreman, do you think you could make a better one if you knew how it was made?”

It was a challenge to the dwarf.

Though Ria had spoken casually, to a dwarf, it was something that would fire up their pride to the maximum.

The sort of feeling of wanting to give it a shot. However, it wasn't his specialty. He had hammered out countless swords, but never a katana.

He hadn't made one and couldn't say that he would leave it to someone else. Even so, he wasn't being obstinate just for a show of a show of skill.

“I've never made a katana. But my youngest son can, he's in now. Other people say that it's useless though...”

“Katanas are the strongest. If a dwarven blacksmith forges one, it would be the strongest katana.”

“You don't use swords? There are a lot of good things about swords.”

“You could say that I'm just used to katanas, but I can't see swords being better than katanas.”

“Oh?”

The head foreman called his apprentice over to bring various things.

Saying that much, she had plenty of interest in weapons made by dwarves.

“Try and cut this.”

The trial began.

The thick lumber was easily bisected.

Next was slicing through wood coiled with wet straw and paper.

Although iron was taken out as well, it was also easily cut in two.

“Good, now for the real thing.”

Forged by a dwarf, the steel sword was placed on the trial stand in

front of Ria.

“So? You might nick the blade, but...”

“Hah—!”

The head foreman’s voice trailed off as Ria shouted, breaking the sword.

Nagasone Kotetsu’s blade wasn’t marred at all.

Those inside the smithy were looking at the trial. Though the head foreman would usually shout to disperse them and get them to resume working, as expected, it was impossible for a dwarf to not watch this.

Next, a mithril blade was taken out. Its strength was improved with magic. Thinking sensibly, it wasn’t possible to be broken by an iron blade.

Even so, Ria’s Nagasone Kotetsu sliced through it.

“The heck is that...? Even if you could cut through it, I’d think there would be a nick or bend...”

Being returned to its sheathe, Nagasone Kotetsu showed no signs of bending.

“Isn’t it just normal iron? But it couldn’t be that strong from normal forging... I don’t get it.”

Then, the head foreman took out an orichalcum ingot.

It was called the metal of the gods, a metal far more expensive than pure gold.

As expected, she couldn’t cut through it. However, Nagasone Kotetsu was still neither warped nor nicked.

“I’m going to give it a serious shot, that good?”

Now that she’d come this far, Ria wanted to know the limit of her beloved katana.

Well, it was more like she wanted to slice through it.

Something like metal with magical power should be able to be sliced through if she loaded the iron with magical power.

“Iyaaaah—!”

Nagasone Kotetstu, charged with Ria’s magical power, met her expectations.

The lump of orichalcum cracked in half.

The head foreman raised his hands in defeat. He literally raised his hands.

“Follow me. It seems you’ll understand my youngest son.”

He then took Ria alone to a corner of the village, arriving at a small hut.

“Foreman, the head foreman arrived.”

Though an apprentice called out inside the hut, there wasn’t a reaction for a while.

The sound of iron being struck continued ringing out.

The work process finishing at last, a still-young, yet also obstinate, dwarf came into view.

Urged on by silence, Ria and the head foreman entered the workshop. Though it was small, there was a beautifully arranged set of general tools. It looked like a house on the inside.

“Your katana, please show him it.”

Hearing the word ‘katana’, the foreman’s eyebrow twitched. Ria passed it over to him, still sheathed.

Quickly drawing the blade, the foreman looked it over.

Meanwhile, Ria browsed through the katanas forged at the workshop.

They weren’t bad. Rather, they were actually good.

The katanas were completed with just rough sharpening, but that wasn’t befitting of the forged items. Their appearances were graceful and powerful.

However, they were still crude. There was a problem of technology, but the feeling of skill remained.

“Oi you.”

The foreman finally spoke.

“What dwarf forged this? Tell me. Please.”

“Well, that was forged by a human.”

That drew the attention of the other dwarves for a moment.

“A-a human... forged it? This? Who in the world...?”

“I’m sorry to say that that person is already dead...”

Ria began to tell the story of Nagasone Kotetsu.

However, Ria’s knowledge of it was limited. They were a lot of legends, as well. Opening with that, Ria spoke of Nagasone Kotetsu’s life.

Until he turned fifty years old, he’d never made a katana. Only armor.

To destroy the magnificent armor that he himself had created, he began to forge

e a katana.

Before forging it, he first started by carefully examining iron as a material.

Then, when he became the greatest craftsman in the east, he caught the eyes of a lord. He was recognized as being the best swordsmith.

The consequences of his fame, including the forgeries that appeared on the market in his lifetime, Ria spoke about everything she knew of Nagasone Kotetsu.

By the time she realized it, it had already grown dark outside.

When Ria finished speaking, the dwarf and his son were overcome with emotion. Their arms were linked as they looked towards the ceiling.

“It’s a wide world out there.”

When the head foreman muttered that, the foreman nodded as well.

“As for me, I want you to forge a katana that exceeds this one.”

“Right now, that’s impossible. I can’t even hold a candle to it.”

Although the dwarves were a race of proud blacksmiths, he said such a thing, lowering his head.

“I beg you. Please, teach me anything related to this katana, anything is good.”

“I expected that. I also love katanas, after all.”

Then, the fight started.

“First of all, this iron is bad.”

Ria declared.

Dwarven iron was pure, made by magic and a furnace. Although coal was added as well to turn it into steel, it was too pure.

There was a mixture. Hearing that, the dwarves had strange looks on their faces. Eliminating impurities from the iron, it was further hardened by the addition of carbon. That was the reasonable way to make weapons.

“Though it’s an extremely small amount, rather than not lacking iron, you need a material that makes it not warp.”

Though she’d researched the areas around here as well as Anise,

the ultimate steel hadn't been completed.

"Like this. Here."

Ria created some titanium. It wasn't a magical metal.

In the manufacturing method of Japanese katanas in her previous life, this was something that was mostly lost as a secret.

In fact, there was a theory that the most excellent katanas were made between the Heian and Kamakura periods, even compared to modern ones.

The grounds for the theory was discovered in an old Buddhist temple. An analysis on the composition of an old and tattered katana found there found modern materials contained within it.

Though it's said that they may have intentionally left things behind when they made the iron, since the exact method of iron refinement from those times hasn't been confirmed, it couldn't be brought to a conclusion.

At any rate, in order to make iron, they began with making another furnace.

Mixed in with the group of dwarves were also Carlos and Gig helping out.

Collecting the iron to use as materials was also a problem. Though there was a lot of good quality iron and steel to make use of in the village, iron sand was necessary in the manufacturing method that Ria knew of.

There was a place where iron sand could be found on the banks of a river. Moreover, Serge's magic smashed the iron ore into grains.

Even for Ria, this was a process of continual trial and error. She had knowledge of it as well as some experience in it. However, she hadn't been in the position of supervising everything.

The head foreman did his best to support them.

When the furnace was completed and the steel manufacturing was to start, the village's dwarves cooperated.

Pumping the bellows together with many heave ho's, the three day long steel manufacturing began.

They failed many times. Perhaps the iron was bad, or maybe the soil, or maybe the coal. It could have been anything.

Dozens of kilos of iron was used before she managed to figure it out. A month had passed.

Still, Ria was satisfied. She felt like she'd seen the dwarves' potentials.

Profound, boorish lumps of iron. When you looked inside, it shined white like the moon.

This was iron. More valuable than gold, it was iron.

They then began to forge the katana.

The technique itself wasn't too different from her previous life's. It was a problem of skill.

There was no one to rely on for feedback. Only the foreman had forged katanas in earnest among the dwarves, and his apprentices were definitely not at the point of being able to forge the iron.

"Will I be fine?"

Though Ria gripped the hammer and asked that, the foreman just nodded.

They then worked on forging katanas.

It was struck single-mindedly. For both the part that would become the heart of the iron and the part that would become the iron blade, various methods were used.

Simultaneously advancing, they both struck katanas countless times using separate methods.

Soil used for tempering, water used for tempering, they had arranged various things.

What kind of water to use? Well water or river water? What temperature for the water?

They failed many, many times.

Ria and the foreman hardly slept.

With endurances that could be thought as nearing infinite values, they continued forging katanas.

It was primarily the apprentices' role to sharpen. They weren't looking for a true sharpening. Simply a rough sharpening to see the color of the iron.

Yet another month passed by.

There was a single katana.

Its body was wide and the blade had a shallow curve.

The ripples along the blade weren't something to boast of.

Ria stared fixedly at the katana, whose blade just finished its rough sharpening.

As though waiting for her to say something, the foreman stood quietly at her side.

"Kind of similar to Kiyomaro."

Ria muttered. The foreman's eyes seemed to ask who Kiyomaro was.

"He was born in an age after Nagasone Kotetsu, a swordsmith that was his rival. The appearance is different of course, but the katana has ambition."

The foreman nodded. In the corner of his eyes, something was gleaming.

"Now then, I've been meaning to ask something."

This was a true katana to Ria's eyes and she was celebrating being able to just barely make one.

"I want you to forge a katana with this."

"This is... a metal? I haven't seen it. Though it looks like a dragon's fang..."

Even the head foreman, who was the most knowledgeable of them all, couldn't figure out where it came from. Without putting on any airs, Ria told them.

"This is a god dragon's fang. I received it from Dark Dragon Valis."

With those words, the movement of every dwarf male ceased.

"Please, forge a katana with this."

Ria bowed.

His response? An immediate, "Impossible."

What he wanted to say was to let him have a shot at it, but he couldn't make himself say it.

His eyes said that he wanted to do it.

"First of all, we wouldn't need a furnace..."

The head foreman muttered to himself. He was motivated.

Another person muttered that charcoal from the world tree would be needed.

Another brought up the hammer that would be needed.

They were motivated.

The dwarf village was filled with motivation.

“Ah, here’s more or less my advance payment.”

Ria took out a few objects. Gold bullions she made in her spare time.

“You can’t eat iron right?”

Brandishing their cups of sake, the dwarves cheered.

Leaving the dwarf village the next morning.

“Even when I grow up, I’ll absolutely never go to the dwarf village.”

Serge, who was a liberal arts youth in his previous life, didn’t hide his true feelings.

“Rather, never again...”

On the back of his favorite horse, Carlos was groaning as though dying.

Lulu quietly used recovery magic on him, but magic that perfectly removed alcohol didn’t actually exist.

“They’re a bunch of good guys.”

Even Ria was shaking back and forth on Matsukaze’s back.

Drinking and making a racket with the dwarven men, Ria was crushed.

Somehow waking up before sunrise despite the hangover was due to years of habit.

“Still though, I really do think dwarves have sake flowing in them instead of blood.”

“Well, you were able to keep up with them until the end.”

Lulu quipped. She was the kind of person that would get drunk off of a single glass of wine.

Although Ria had terrific abnormal condition resistances, she didn’t have one for alcohol.

Right, even dragons would get drunk after drinking sake.

Ria's strength against sake depended purely on her body.

"Still, it took longer than I thought."

Though it was mainly because of her, Ria muttered so in a carefree manner.

A bird flew from the sky to such a Ria.

No, not a bird. It did have wings, but it was a bat.

The bat's feet hovered in front of Ria, a letter attached to them.

As for who would use a bat like that, it was probably a report from Asuka.

A short sentence was written inside the letter.

[Cordova soldiers raiding the village. Return quickly.]

Spurring Matsukaze forward, Ria hurried down the road towards the village.

The Dragonslayer

By the time they returned to the village, everything had ended.

Cordova's soldiers invaded. A platoon from Cordova ordered the village to subordinate, ordering them to submit a hostage as proof. The village chief, who naturally refused, had a spear pierced through his chest.

It was a warning.

Irina, who had suppressed herself so far, let loose.

She blew off the head of the soldier that did such a horrible thing to the gentle Ojii-chan.

Fighting commenced.

Irina overran the enemy with an overwhelming force and Maal set the villagers that couldn't fight free.

The beastkin that could fight did so as well.

Before Irina's fighting potential, Cordova's troops were scattered as they fled. However, she couldn't defend all of the villagers.

There were people who had sustained severe injuries. Even so, they were able to be healed with recovery magic. But those who stopped breathing completely...

There were three beastkin corpses.

Among them was the village chief that talked with Ria about the beastkins' future on that night.

The blood that clung to their fur was completely washed away.

Their families wept and howled in front of them. Violently. Perhaps, they were desperately trying to endure their emotions.

Ria watched on from a little distance away.

"I will.. crush Cordova."

Towards Ria's cold voice, everyone nearby turned towards her.

Towards Ria's eyes filled with determination, everyone nodded in return.

They didn't stop. They wouldn't forget this feeling.

The war was about to begin.

The Manesh kingdom wasn't really a kingdom.

Because on this continent, there were only five kingdoms recognized by the empire.

Due to the millennium one thousand years ago, excluding the areas around the empire, human society practically collapsed.

In order to rebuild the continent, the three imperial princes, the imperial princess, and the emperor's younger brother of the time dispatched their forces to various places.

One person, Leyte Anaia, founded the Casalia kingdom.

One thousand years has passed since then and the human race has increased their territory, birthing new cities. Manesh was one of those cities' names.

One of Manesh's feudal lords separated from Anise and was enfeoffed into a duke by the king at the time, establishing the Manesh dukedom.

So speaking accurately, Manesh is still a dukedom since its king is a duke. But other than for compelling reasons, Manesh calls itself a kingdom on formal occasions, the duke calling himself as a king.

Since they had married the Casalian royal family many times, it wouldn't be wrong to think of them as semi-royal.

Incidentally, it was the same with Cordova. Although they were Casalian nobles, it was just a count.

But now that they improved their armaments and increased their war potential, they started trying to approach Casalia.

Now, even though this was Ria's take on it, it was still puzzling to her.

Ria was a Casalian princess. Although she was an illegitimate child, she was unmistakably recorded as a princess in the family tree.

And though it was a bit confusing despite being the cause herself, she became the ogres' queen without being recognized by Casalia.

It might be thought of as her trying to usurp the county. Ria was quietly worrying about it.

When she passed through the ogre village on her way back to Anise, she was told the state of affairs when all of the ogre tribes' elders recognized her.

Although her father was visibly troubled by the current

circumstances, he could probably deal with it somehow.

At any rate, there was no way Ria would feel like calling herself an independent sovereign from Casalia. At most she would be made a titular duke, she'd be fine with being recognized as a head of family.

Ria didn't want descendants. Ogres wouldn't follow any human other than Ria.

Cordova's invasion was stopped for the time being. If she could destroy Cordova, they just needed to weather the storm known as the millennium.

That should take something like ten or twenty years. With that much time, Ria should still be alive.

A new order would be born so long as they could make it through the millennium. At that time, Ria would entrust the political power to someone and go out to travel.

In any case, Ria wouldn't birth any children. Even if she established a country, it'd just be a single generation of Ria.

"Manesh, huh. Isn't the Dragonslayer there?"

One night, Serge asked about it again while they camped. He was asking Irina.

"Though there are wonderfully strong dragons, they can lose."

Regarding humans that killed dragons, Irina didn't have any particular sentiments.

Beasts compete with other beasts to kill each other, so it couldn't be helped that humans would also contest against dragons. Such was the way dragons thought of the subject.

Even if acquaintances were killed before their own eyes, and one certainly was killed recently, they would completely resign themselves to it once they calm down for a moment.

Such were the living things known as dragons.

"But the heck, why would someone feel like attacking a dragon?"

Though heroes born to kill dragons were well-known even in the countryside Serge grew up in, he didn't know the details.

Truthfully, neither did Ria nor Carlos. Irina knew a lot about it though. Well, perhaps it's better to say knowing about them would be

natural?

The underlying cause was, again, Cordova.

Manesh's governing body racked their brains about what to do about Cordova's military might, turning to a prohibited magic.

Originally, the empire handed down the secret processes for it through the five royal families.

It was the magic to summon heroes.

"With Rufus-sama's vigorous developments in magical knowledge and enlightenment, I wonder if it leaked from there somehow?"

Lulu pictured her deceased teacher's face.

At any rate, Dark Dragon Valis ordered a dragon to go attack Manesh so that they wouldn't so simply summon a hero.

As Valis planned, the hero summoning ceremony was interrupted and most of the mages who knew the details of the ceremony were killed.

But then something Valis didn't plan on happened.

Manesh's leadership held carefully selected elites in reserve, confronting the dragon.

Even though they're said to be elite, they were human. In order to truly fight against a dragon, they needed five people.

The royal court's head mage and the knight leader of the time both died in the fight.

The three people remaining were called Dragonslayers. However, one of them was not from there. Where they came from wasn't known.

Gonbei.

Ria looked at Serge's face. They were obviously a reincarnated person.

"You know, this Gonbei person. Isn't it an alias for the Great Sage Azelford-sama?"

Serge predicted such a thing.

The Great Sage Azelford was alive during the millennium one thousand years ago, now living in the Sacred Mountain Cyrus, monitoring over the demon tribe's territory to the north.

There was a magic city at the foot of Mt. Cyrus with an institution that taught magic established in it. Many mages gathered there from

across the continent, working hard studying.

Not that the imperial capital had disappeared, it probably wasn't wrong to call it the most prosperous place of magic research.

If it really was the Great Sage Azelford, they certainly should be able to defeat a dragon. It wouldn't be strange even if they had knowledge concerning reincarnated individuals.

At any rate, it's because he fought together with the hero against the previous millennium's demon king.

"Then there's the Queen-sama?"

Irina expressed her doubt. It was a natural doubt for her though.

"She's called the Queen of Dragon Eyes, I wonder if she has the Dragon Eyes gift?"

Dragon eyes. It was a gift that roused Ria, it could intimidate opponents, as well as strip them of their abilities.

If it's the Manesh royal family that married those from the Casalian royal family that inherited dragon's blood, it was a Gift that could appear.

"And being able to survive fighting against a dragon, wouldn't you have to be skilled with magic too?"

Shizuna chipped in. Fighting against a dragon was a dream for warriors.

Actually fighting one, let alone winning, surviving was almost impossible.

Incidentally, it seems that queen Guinevere evaded the royal palace until a dragon invaded.

Intimidation would inflict a deep-seated fear and strip you of your abilities at the best of times. It must have been dreadful.

But now that she's become a queen she's actually quite charismatic. She was splendidly ruling the kingdom.

Manesh's ability to contend against Cordova after having its war potential decrease sharply will definitely depend on the queen's capability.

"From what I heard, she's a through and through tomboy though."

Since Ria was part of a royal family, she had information on other countries' royal families.

"As for me, I know most about the woman named Carla."

She mainly caught Ria's interest because she directly stabbed the

dragon with a sacred sword. An existence that ended a tremendously huge life force.

Carla Raparb Uslan. She was sixteen years old at the time. She's now the commander of the queen's elite guards. It's said that she is also employed by the marquis.

She was originally picked up by a lower class noble and studied abroad at a magic academy due to her expected talents. Studying until the age of fourteen, she went to work for the royal palace as a knight after returning home.

She then became the best friend of Guinevere, a princess at the time. She fought together against the dragon, defeating it.

Currently nineteen years ago. Single, and it seems she does not currently have a lover either.

"A magic swordsman huh? The same as me."

Ria muttered. She wanted to fight against her by all means, her voice practically oozed with that feeling.

"Well, if we can forge an alliance, I might be able set up a contest..."

Carlos was amazed. If he thought about it, even Reyas was troubled by her.

She wouldn't be able to escape the bout against Ria. He couldn't suppress his sympathy for the woman named Carla.

"Let's get some sleep. We'll arrive in Manesh lands tomorrow."

Everything would have to wait until they actually met. Ria concluded it like that.

The territory of Manesh was a place where there were many humans. Ria gave herself an image change.

She covered herself with a mask.

She wasn't just now breaking out with a case of chuunibyou, though. This was a necessity.

This wasn't ogre or dwarf lands, Ria's beauty stood out too much in human society.

After entering human habitation, various troublesome things popped up so she made a mask that would cover the top part of her face.

She put on a hood as well, so she finally didn't stand out due to her

looks. Though she was now standing out in another meaning, it didn't come with any more strange troubles.

Beauty's a sin.

And so, the group safely arrived at Manesh. Though Ria, who was hiding her face, was stopped at the castle gates, she showed them the dagger that bore Casalia's royal crest. It was pretty helpful.

They rented the most expensive room at Manesh's number one inn.

While Carlos sent a messenger to the royal castle, Ria spoke.

"Alright, so how about let's go to the public bath?"

Despite their room coming with its own bath, Ria said that.

The public bath. In other words, naked girls. She could look at as many as she wanted.

This was one of the wonderful facilities Manesh built.

"Why do you love baths so much..."

Though Shizuna muttered to herself in amazement, Ria whispered in her ear.

"You won't be sleeping tonight, so make sure you prepare yourself."

Since Irina wouldn't separate from Maal, Ria took a double room with Shizuna.

Shizuna's breathing changed as her cheeks blushed. Certainly, she didn't want Ria to see her body dirty.

Her lower region readied itself as she recalled that night.

However, Shizuna's expectations would be dashed.

They left for the public bath while carrying bathing supplies. It was good when the bathtub was huge, everyone would talk with each other.

When their group began to walk down the main road towards the public bath, a noise came from the distance.

"Carla-sama..."

"It's Carla-sama..."

"Carla-sama...!"

The pedestrians spontaneously split apart to form a path.

Many people riding horses were going down the center of the road towards the royal palace. In the lead, was her.

Ria thought that since she was a nineteen year old unmarried noble girl, what problem could there be?

With one look, she understood.

Every pedestrian stopped walking, burning the image of this woman into their minds. They were murmuring her name incoherently.

To say it simply, she was too beautiful.

It was like Ria was enthralled by looking at the woman.

No, not like she was enthralled.

She was literally enthralled by her.

Her blue eyes were clear like the boundless sky.

She silvery hair flowed in the wind like sparkling stars.

Ria invoked her Dragon Eyes in order to learn more about the woman.

Carla Raparb Uslan.

Level 198.

Though level 198 was amazing, that wasn't what all.

That wasn't enough to surprise her.

The problem was her gift.

[Dragon's Bloodline]

Yes, she had the Dragon's Bloodline.

Moreover, she had released many of the Gift's contents.

Limb Regeneration, Organ Regeneration, Herculean Strength, Roar, Intimidation, Sixth Sense, Dragon's Fighting Spirit, High Speed Regeneration, High Speed Recovery, Spacial Grasp, Ultra Attraction, Magical Power Perception, Limit Break, Breath Reduction, Robust Health, Perpetual Youth, Diamond Body, Magic Resistance, Keen Senses, Body Strengthening, Internal Strengthening, Bone Strengthening, Supercompensation, Consumption Reduction, Magical Power Consumption Reduction, Sleep Reduction, Heat Resistance, Paralysis Resistance, Poison

Resistance, Disease Resistance, Impact Resistance, Mental Resistance, Petrification Resistance, Corruption Resistance, Curse Resistance, Absorption Resistance, Bewitching Resistance, Confusion Resistance, Acid Resistance, Hypnosis Resistance, Blind Resistance, Charm Resistance, Mind Control Resistance, Mind-Reading Resistance, Pain Tolerance...

But that wasn't all.

It wasn't just Dragon's Bloodline.

While it was an incredibly high-level thing, that wasn't the only Gift she saw.

That girl definitely held another Gift.

[God's Bloodline]

I see.

I see, I see.

I understand now.

If someone has both a dragon's and a god's power, they should be able to defeat a dragon.

As for why Valis viewed her as a problem, I can understand now.

"N-Nee-chan..."

Among the people overwhelmed by her beauty, only Ria and Serge saw the woman's true nature.

Then, Ria laughed.

In front of the bodyguards, in front of Carla to be precise, a single girl walked out.

"Impudence!"

"Clear the road!"

The girl lowered her hood and took off her mask.

Seeing her beautiful face, the bodyguards' words were interrupted.

The bodyguards saw those beautiful features often.

Queen Guinevere of the Manesh Kingdom. Black hair darker than black, golden pupils more pure than gold.

Even though they couldn't call her her twin, they definitely looked something like sisters.

"Dragonslayer Carla-dono."

Ria spoke with feelings of excitement coming from the depths of her heart.

"I would like to have a contest with you."

Carla

“I decline.”

Her voice was beautiful, it was the first time Ria heard Carla’s voice. Since the voice was too beautiful, Ria missed hearing the contents.

“Eh?”

“Firstly, there’s no reason to fight with you.”

Although Carla’s voice was dignified, it was gentle at the same time. Her voice gave one a sense of security just by hearing it.

“And secondly…”

She looked around her surroundings. The crowd of people were puzzled at the sudden situation.

“I cannot fight you in this area.”

Of course, she agreed.

If Ria went all out here, unexpected things might happen.

“Therefore—”

Carla continued to speak.

“If you give a reason, as well as prepare a place to fight, I will be your opponent.”

Without neither malice nor fighting spirit, she agreed to fight.

Spontaneously agreeing to take on Ria, she said she would fight.

This was the first time she’d had an opponent like that.

“Thanks.”

Ria, who put her mask back on, went back into the crowd of people. She rejoined with her comrades and resumed heading to the bath, as though nothing happened.

Seeing what happened, the bodyguards resumed moving before long together with making some noise.

“Carla-sama, is that really alright?”

Her female aide asked her. Carla continued looking forward.

“If you want, I could arrest her now—”

“That is impossible.”

Carla's words were frank.

"She didn't do that because she resented me."

She was simply speaking the truth.

"Moreover, I have a hunch."

"A hunch?"

Carla didn't usually use such vague words.

"Yes, a hunch."

Carla spoke with steady eyes, not wavering in the least.

"I think that person is the one I've waited for for a long time."

Inside the crowd, there was a girl.

Amongst her noisy surroundings, she was dressed as a man nodding her head.

She was Ferna, part of the leadership of [Black Cat], the self-styled secret society that everyone knew of. Her curiosity was aroused by the situation.

"This has become a bit interesting."

"Really now?"

Turning around in a panic, she saw a face that she recognized.

"Ah, Halt-san..."

"Long time no see, Ferna-san."

Introducing himself as a peddler, this man with black hair and eyes was Halt. Even though Ferna had met him many times over the course of working with the company, she hadn't been able to grasp his true colors.

However, he wasn't a bad man. His eyes were calm and he gave off a dignified air that exceeded a common merchant's.

"Carla the Dragonslayer and Princess Ryuke Riana, the one who defeated the labyrinth huh?"

"Eh!?"

She knew about the former. However, she only knew of the latter's name. Identify didn't work, so she had thought they weren't an ordinary person though.

"There's no mistaking it. She perfectly matches to the description given by my subordinates."

“That’s... really...?”

This young man said something that even Black Cat’s leadership didn’t know about. For things concerning this continent, he might have an information network that exceeds Black Cat’s.

He says that he’s just a peddler that travels alone by wagon, but he just said that he had subordinates.

(Hasn’t he done business with Black Cat too?)

Though Ferna thought that, she didn’t voice it out loud. That man had the elegance of some country’s leader.

“Then, if those two really do fight...”

“I wouldn’t miss it!”

Ferna strongly agreed with Halt’s statement.

“If you’re also going, how about going together with me?”

“With Halt-san?”

“Yeah, if it’s Ferna-san, you could protect me from thing with your fire magic right?”

It wasn’t that Halt wasn’t confident in his physical strength, it was more that Ferna was known for repeatedly using her large-scale magic.

He wanted to have a bodyguard to join spectators.

“That’s fine. I’ve received help from Halt-san before.”

“Well then, let me know where you’re staying.”

The two exchanged contact information and separated. Ferna continued to think about Halt.

She thought about Halt, the peddler.

She thought about Ars Gahalt, the demon king.

She thought about Arisugawa Halt, the ex-hero.

The meeting of those two people, and what brought them to this continent.

The demon king that didn’t have any confidence in his own strength, she could only rack her brains.

Being able to protect yourself was the most important thing.

Moonlight faintly lit the dark night.

Ria sat at the window frame of her room, wearing a single layer of

thin silk. Even so, her katana was still within arm's reach.

"Hey... you not going to sleep?"

Shizuna whispered from within the bed.

"Yeah, go ahead and sleep first."

Ria answered flatly. It wasn't her intention to invite her over, but Shizuna felt sad for some reason.

After that, Ria went to the bathroom. She was thinking about something while submersing herself in the bath.

When they returned to the inn, Carlos brought back the queen's reply saying that they would have an audience the next day.

Although they sent a message beforehand when they were still in the ogre village, she didn't expect that they would have an audience so soon. That woman seemed to be quite nimble.

Ria didn't hate people that worked so quickly. Carlos made another trip, deciding on the time.

Ria prepared her clothes, as well as remaking the group's clothing.

When Ria asked Shizuna's impressions of her outfit, she thought that it was like a beautiful woman dressing herself in black themed male clothing.

The next day, when she left for the audience, she was limited in which comrades she could bring with her.

As a matter of course, Ria brought Carlos the knight.

Gig came as the ogre representative, with Maal as the beastkin representative.

She also brought Irina, who was a dragon, for five people in all.

Serge, Lulu, and Shizuna were completely commoners and would have to wait in the anteroom.

Like this, Shizuna felt the difference between her world and Ria's.

"What are you thinking about?"

This wasn't the first time Shizuna asked that, but she didn't anticipate her response.

"Yeah, I've been wondering what I should do to beat that woman."

Shizuna doubted her ears.

When she talked to the person she fell in love with, that person talked about fighting.

A woman that didn't understand a woman's heart.

Shizuna put her back to her, sulking.

The royal palace was simple and sturdy. In truth, the interior was rebuilt after having been destroyed by the dragon's raid and the queen just hadn't put much effort into it.

The door to the audience room opened as the five walked up to it. Far ahead of them on the throne sat a woman with black hair.

A beauty. She really did look like Ria. No, maybe like Valis? She didn't have Ria's martial atmosphere.

Her golden eyes were using intimidation, but their owner wasn't using them to the point that it would cause them to submit.

And behind the queen stood a beautiful knight.

Carla Raparb Uslan.

She stared at her.

And she stared back.

It felt like she was being seen through.

The group stopped several steps away from the stairs leading to the throne. The three other than Ria and Irina took a knee.

Guinevere stood up from the throne, walking down the stairs to stand before Ria.

"This is the first time we've met. I am Guinevere, duke of Manesh."

Guinevere lowered her head, while Ria on the other hand returned with a knight's bow.

"Thank you for your polite greetings, your excellency. I am Ryuke Riana Crystal Casalia. And this is—"

She indicated Irina with her outstretched hand.

"Daughter of Golden Dragon Clarice-sama and Dark Dragon Valis-sama, Irina-sama."

The courtiers acting as their audience started whispering to one another. However, it didn't affect either of those two at all.

Guinevere and Carla.

"For the daughter of god dragons, this is a laughable place to speak. Shall we change locations?"

Guinevere proposed such a thing. She wanted to stop with such

formal talk and have a more frank discussion. Ria felt the same and agreed.

“Please step this way. I’ve prepared a much more relaxed area.”

Ria nodded, the queen guided them personally. The courtiers behind them, Carla followed.

“If possible I would like to bring my comrades that came with me. There are various things that need to be said.”

“Understood.”

Signalling with just her eyes, a lady of the court dashed away.

“Ah, it’s fine if it waits until after our talk is over, but—”

Of course, Ria was about to touch on the main subject.

“I would like to have a one on one match against the Dragonslayer Carla-dono.”

“Oh my~”

Carla seemed to be glad at hearing that.

“Carla, what do you think?”

“If Hime-sama wills it.”

The pretty-faced knight answered coolly. However, her eyes spoke for her.

She also desired it.

(But still, calling her Hime-sama despite her being a queen? She does look like a child, though...)

Ria thought about something as inconsequential as that.

“Well, let’s leave that talk for later. Some minimal preparations are necessary.”

With another signal from Guinevere, another court lady was sent running. She didn’t understand what preparations were necessary, but Ria felt she had good control over her subordinates.

The group went to the queen’s private room. The three they were separated from came as well.

“Ah, make yourselves comfortable. I’d like to as well, after all.”

The queen, who changed her tone, said so as she heavily sat down on the sofa while taking her shoes off.

“I’m like this, but that’s fine right? You’re also an explorer despite being an Ojou-sama, so you hate the formal stuff right?”

Although that was true, this was the first time she saw her being so direct.

Ria sank deeply into the sofa and nodded. The other members sat down lightly on small sofas that were prepared.

“I’ll introduce everyone. From the right is the prime minister, the minister of state, the foreign minister, the minister of military affairs, and the intelligence chief. We’ll speak in more details when the chance comes. Also, Carla is my head bodyguard. Though it seems like you already know her well.”

Her cabinet of ministers left the room while waving. The only ones that stayed were Carla and her ladies-in-waiting.

Ria introduced her comrades as well. Among them, the queen seemed interested in Irina, as well as Serge.

Irina she could understand. Even though she looked like a human, she’s a dragon. But even though Serge was a reincarnated person he was an ordinary child.

“This is the first time I’ve seen a human with even more pure magical power than me.”

So that was the cause.

Serge’s magical power certainly was high. It was very abnormal, especially when considering his age.

Since he was usually near the exceptional existences known as Ria and Irina, he didn’t tend to stand out though.

“He has various mysterious skills... Dark Dragon Valis-sama’s power? If that’s so I’d like to see you explore with Carla at some point. If I have the time, I’d also like to go though.”

She saw straight through his power. Even though Serge practiced magic that strongly obstructed people from being able to see through his power, it looks like that didn’t stop her.

Moreover, this queen was very quick witted.

This was the first time that Ria had seen a person with such a high wisdom attribute. At any rate, it was even higher than Rufus’. It was obviously higher than Ria’s, too.

“Mother.”

As for who interrupted the conversation, it was a small child.

Waited on by a maid serving under Guinevere, he was this country’s

prince, her only son.

His father is unknown. It's thought that the queen had a consort, but no one stood up.

The prince was lifted by his mother and was shown off to Ria.

"I'll introduce him to you. This is my son, Shinji."

Geho—. Serge started to choke on the tea he was drinking.

"Oh my, what's wrong? His name is a bit unusual, but he's a lovely child."

With black eyes and hair, he was a charming child. However, the reason Serge choked was due to his name.

"Your majesty, would it be alright if I asked you something frankly?"

Although Serge was talking with a frantically polite tone, he simply had to confirm something.

"It's fine. Speak freely."

Ria also turned towards Serge. Though she knew him, she also didn't know what Serge was going to ask.

"His highness the prince's name, did his father decide it? And perhaps, if would it have been Rei if Shinji was a girl...?"

With a bang, the queen stood up quickly. The composure she'd had up to this point all but disappeared from her face.

"You! Do you know where he is right now!?"

If he didn't say that he didn't know, the queen could have Carla detain him with nothing but a look.

However, Carla's blue eyes did nothing but stare at Serge.

"I don't know where he is. However, I do know a person who might know..."

"Hime-sama, any further would be..."

Since Carla was paying attention to the surrounding stares, Guinevere seemed to have also recovered control of herself. She gave her child who had stiffened in her arms to a maid, sitting back down with a plop.

"I have quite a few things I want to ask you."

Then the queen changed subjects once again.

"So, why do you want to fight against Carla?"

Looking at her with eyes full of childish curiosity, Guinevere asked Ria.

Ria's answer was blunt.

"When there's a mountain, you climb it."

Guinevere laughed heartily.

Black and Silver

To describe the woman named Carla Raparb Uslan with words, she was a perfect human.

First was her beautiful appearance. In addition to the hue of her blue eyes and magnificent silvery hair, her expression was a faint smile. When normal humans met her for the first time, they would rub their eyes in disbelief of her existence.

From her thin neck and shoulders, her chest wasn't humble yet neither was it too abundant. And from her thin waist extended graceful and long, disciplined legs. Not emphasizing sex appeal with her chest, she was an existence that existed in perfect harmony.

If you thought it was just her looks, she was also incredible on the inside.

Her skill in the sword was at the peak. The Great Sage Azelford himself admitted her skill in magic, saying it was above even his own. She possesses extensive knowledge and expertise, and even her personality could be said to be able to restrain the queen and her son, the prince.

Though now that she had killed a dragon she is often called the Sage Knight of Silver, people used to call her a saint before that.

The reason why is that she can use revival magic.

For someone that can use revival magic in this world, they could only be called a god.

Though in truth god dragons could use it as well, most people didn't know that.

Carla should meet the requirements to some extent, so she can use revival magic.

"So, even if you fight against Carla and die, we will abide by the next requirement."

"Hold up, why are you assuming I'm going to be defeated?"

"I'm not saying it's a certainty, but Carla has killed a dragon. I'm just preparing for the worst case scenario."

Guinevere smiled as she laughed. Right now, she was on the palm of a huge golem.

They were currently at Manesh's outskirts plains. This was the area where that dragon was killed. The name of the place was now [The Dragonslayer's Wasteland].

Here and there were craters, along with scattered bits of vitrified rock. In a place like that, two women stood still. There was also a golem.

Ria wore her usual black leather armor, Carla wore knight armor that was the same color as her hair, made from mithril. Guinevere was in horse riding clothing.

Although it was a golem, it seemed that its strong point was in underwater combat.

"First of all, don't damage the upper half of the head. The brain must remain."

Guinevere explained various things, but it all went in one ear and out the other for Ria.

"In short, pierces and slashes are fine, but blowing them entirely away with magic is no good!"

It would've been fine if she just said that to start with.

"By the way, if I make a mistake and kill her, is there someone else who could use revival magic?"

Ria asked about what would happen if the opposite happened.

"As soon as my heart stops beating, I will revive."

As expected, a considerable opponent.

With her Gift, even if several of her arms and legs were cut off she'd still be fine, so it'd probably be alright to go all out.

"Incidentally, since Carla won't die even if you stab her through the heart, it's fine to be at ease."

Amazing isn't it, Dragon's Bloodline.

Guinevere, who was on the golem, stood on the opposite side of Carla and said something. Though it wasn't impossible to hear if she strained her ears, Ria thought it'd probably be more interesting if she didn't hear what the strategy was.

A little while later the golem moved away from Carla, taking a sufficient distance. Its back opened and Guinevere boarded it.

That was unexpected, golems of the type where humans boarded

them didn't exist in this world. The reason was similar to what it was in Ria's previous life, there was no practical use for a human to board a robot. Although there were power suit-type magic armor, it wasn't common.

For Guinevere's golem, she herself must have thought it up, designed it, and manufactured it. Despite being a queen that seemed busy, it appeared she had quite a lot of time.

"So then, go and start~"

Together with Guinevere's magnified voice, a fireball shot into the sky. It exploded, signalling the start of the fight.

Closing the distance for now, Ria kicked off the ground.

Carla did the same.

Skimming over the ground, she came flying.

It was unexpected. According to what she heard from Guinevere, she knew that it was more advantageous for her to attack from long range with magic.

After countless feints, there was a single sword attack. The guards of the sword and katana approached each other.

Engaging against Nagasone Kotetsu was a sword that had once been called a holy sword. Now, it was the national treasure sword called the Dragon Destroying Sword Ekudra.

"Why close combat?"

Uneasy, Ria asked.

"So that I can end this without killing you."

"Don't look down on me."

After just a short time of exchanging blows, Ria saw through her.

Carla's Swordplay Skill was level eight. Judging from that, it was probably an even match. With her ability values, as well as her Gifts, it was definitely an even match.

However, that was if you looked at each element individually. If you put them together, their difference was clear.

Mixing in advanced feints, she performed a quick and precise attack. However, it was overwhelmingly light.

Light to the point you wouldn't know if it could kill a person.

"You haven't killed many people, have you?"

"I think I've got quite a bit of combat experience myself, but..."

They had the composure to have a chat in the middle of a fight.

"... I see."

She had a chance to answer.

What was this fight to Carla? It was a suppression. The only thing she could call a fight was the fight against that dragon. The rest of her experience in battle was entirely cultivated through training. All because of the talent named Gift.

Although Ria was given almost as much power by it, the sheer amount of blood she vomited in her previous life was different. She had been surprised when she really did piss blood.

With the extreme effort put into her life as an ordinary person going through trial and error, the ability of her body could only be described as prodigal. That was Ria's strength.

"White Prison Flame."

Carla invoked a magic with no chant, attacking Ria.

And it wasn't a single thing, it came from all directions.

Ria dodged and slashed them apart with her katana. Even so, she couldn't avoid all of them and received a direct hit.

But she wasn't damaged. An attack that is merely hot couldn't affect Ria in the least.

After that, Ria defended against attacks of innumerable attributes many times.

"Good gracious, incredible."

"Yeah, really."

In a mountainous region far from the battlefield.

Two figures stood there.

At a distance where the two fighting figures looked as large as grains of rice, Halt and Ferna were walking.

Both were wearing sand colored mantles. Goods that reduced the effectiveness of magic, Halt prepared them just in case.

Ferna could use far sight magic and Halt watched them with

binoculars he took out from his breast pocket.

Halt answered Ferna's glance at him with a smile.

"They were developed by my company, the state of the art binoculars."

They didn't use magic, entirely products of technology.

If you were watching a magic battle, there were many things that could obstruct far sight magic.

He placed them to his eyes, but immediately smiled wryly and put them away.

"They're moving too fast for me to see. Ferna-san, please explain.

"Sure."

Ferna explained that Carla was moving as she repeatedly activated terrifically advanced magic.

That was as accurate an explanation she could give. Although she was exposing a part of her power, she still hadn't been noticed yet.

A man and woman were also watching.

Standing next to the robo-golem was Irina and Serge.

To answer everyone's desire of watching Ria and Carla's fight, Serge was sending them a reflection of it with space-time magic, but his mind was already starting to break.

Magic that Lulu and Serge would have had to put their all into to use was being rapidly fired by Carla as though they were simple.

Ria was nullifying her magic, as well as slicing through them and taking them head on.

Super frightening.

What the heck was with this monstrous battle?

"Irina, seriously defend me. If something flies over here, it really might kill me."

Even a single stray attack was easily enough to make a small crater. It'd instantly break through the magic bulwarks Serge had set up.

"Got it~"

Although Irina said it nonchalantly, she was properly working diligently.

Clad in orichalcum armor, Irina's body emanated a golden dragon

fighting spirit, defending Serge.

(Even so...)

Serge thought as he looked to his side. The queen turned the golem's face to one direction.

Even though she was defended by the golem's armor, the queen was in such a place as well. Her retainers tolerated it.

Serge was slowly understanding just how futile it would have been to try and stop her, at least a little.

Carla was hesitating.

She was hesitating over how she should deal with the strength of this person named Ria.

She didn't use magic meant for one on one combat at all. In killing with a sword, her one on one skills were above her own.

Then maybe she should go all out with her magic?

She never thought that she would have to go all out with her magic against a normal human opponent.

However, her hesitation disappeared all at once.

Ria was able to stop all of her attacks.

Without seeing it herself, Carla would never have believed it.

Opening the distance between them, Carla took to the sky.

Ria prepared herself on the ground in anticipation. It wasn't that she couldn't use magic to fly into the air, but she wasn't that good at it.

Then, Carla's voice echoed out.

[— Confined —]

This was the first time Ria heard Carla chant.

Meanwhile, her body rapidly increased in weight. She wasn't able to move.

[— To the depths of the dark ground —]

Magic that manipulated gravity, and moreover repeated many times over. She could feel the magical power being compressed.

(This is bad—)

Ria thought.

Perhaps Carla thought that Ria was calm. Her confidence in her was that weighty.

She erected a multi-layered barrier with Ria at its center.

This was used to confine Ria, but that wasn't all.

She was about to bring about complete destruction to that limited space

(This is seriously bad—)

Then, Carla finished her chant.

[— Thermonuclear Darkness Exploding Hell —]

The multi-layered barrier's radius was several hundred meters with Ria at its heart.

It was something that could defend against a dragon's breath.

Countless nuclear explosions were compressed inside of that.

Usually, it would take several dozen mages using a ceremony to use this magic.

Able to destroy even a dragon, it was the final measure the human race had.

However, even so, Carla could feel Ria's presence.

A giant crater had formed from the wrecked surface.

Though heat was seeping into the sky, the rocks still boiled like magma.

From that pond of magma, Ria jumped out.

When she knew that she wasn't able to escape, she chose to descend into the ground. By using the bath magic she'd trained, she went as far down into the ground as she was able.

The gigantic layer of bedrock was able to defend against the nuclear explosion. Her resistance was somehow effective for the heat generated.

“That... was hot...”

The stuff clinging to her armor cracked and fell as she brushed it away with her hands.

“Hoooooooooot!!!”

Ria flew towards Carla.

On her back were translucent black wings.

This was her newly released [Flight] Gift.

Carla stopped Ria’s slash.

However, their trades were one-sided.

All of her Gifts were released and she was being strengthened by magic.

Even so, Carla was unable to gain the upper hand against Ria.

Then, Ria smiled.

Each time their swords clashed, she knew that she was growing stronger.

When she was with Carla, she felt like she could rise to any height.

Yes, this is what she wished for.

Letting out a remarkably sharp blow, Carla took a distance from Ria.

Then, she sheathed her sword and raised her hands to the sky.

“Eh? Surely you aren’t giving up?”

Even though she’d used that magic a moment before, Carla still had magical power left.

From now on would be the real thing.

“No. However, this is the end.”

Carla prepared her magical power.

Composing it in her mind, this was her strongest magic.

At this point, it was dubious as to whether this could be called magic. It was the power of a god.

[— Spirits of the ground and sky, abide by god’s will, carry out your duty —]

[— Destruction of Heaven and Earth —]

There, light was born.

That light became a pillar, swallowing everything.
The ground crumbled, disappearing.
The sky disintegrated, scattering into space.
Exactly as it sounded, it was a power to destroy heaven and earth.

Inside of the light, Ria herself was wrapped in darkness.
A darkness dragon's fighting spirit. This was a dragon's power, the
power to oppose a god.

"Uaaaaaah!"

Roar. Fighting against the power of a god, Ria rushed out of the
light.

Before her was Carla.

Crashing into her with great force, the two fell to the ground.

Underneath Ria's arms, Carla.

As though being restrained by Ria's arms, Carla.

That flawless beauty collapsed.

Her hair in disorder, her cheeks red, and sweat on her brow.

An angel had fallen. It was that kind of an immoral feeling.

"It's my loss."

Carla's breathing was rough, saying just that.

"Really, don't you still have a trump card?"

"No, that last one was it. I didn't finish using it in the fight, but the
damage to the surroundings is huge."

"Yeah, that's for sure."

There was a brand new supersized crater. If the battlefield wasn't
restricted, just how much damage would have occurred?

“Winner’s rights. For you, I staked my life.”

Incidentally, this was that kind of fight.

Under Ria’s body, Carla stirred.

Her body was soft. Ria couldn’t figure out where she hid that power in it.

“Well then, kiss me...”

Carla didn’t show her surprise on her face from the request, instead shutting her eyes.

Seeing her pink lips, Ria trembled fervently—

—But in the end, she only managed to kiss her cheek.

Intermission – The Surprised Demon King-sama

“Well then Halt-san, see you tomorrow.”

“Yeah, take care.”

Returning to my inn room after making arrangements with Fernan-san, I opened the key to open the room.

Then I took off my boots and collapsed on the bed without changing out of my clothes.

“Aah~”

The heck?

Those two, what in the world were they doing?

Are they stupid? Did they want to die?

Please spare me from that.

Like, I knew Carla was strong you know? I’ve actually fought with with her. It’s been three years since then, but now she’s as strong as though she’s another person.

That child, nineteen years old? Even though her Gift is powerful, she doesn’t have memories like a reincarnator. She doesn’t have the benefit of being teleported from another world either, so just how did she get that strong?

Well, she really did get that strong though...

Thermonuclear Darkness Exploding Hell huh, she used that incantation? It was put under national control, you aren’t supposed to use it!

You can’t use it in wars, it’s an incantation prohibited by the treaty.

Well, the empire guarding that treaty vanished though huh~

Rather, I’m the one that did it though!

It couldn’t be helped, I couldn’t capture the imperial capital with Clarice around.

Still though, three million deaths is crazy...

... It's entirely on me though. I'm not avoiding my burdens you know?
Reflection over.

"Uuh~"

And that Destruction of Heaven and Earth... isn't that a magic used by the gods for the great collapse? Wonder how she got it.

Well, even if I knew how to use it, that doesn't mean I could actually use it though...

God's Bloodline is impressive.

Uaah~

I definitely don't want to make her an enemy.

I wouldn't want to fight those kind people even at the best of times.

Well, that other girl is dangerous.

Yeah, I heard about her from Rei and Asuka.

Ryuke Riana Crystal Casalia Ogress... such a long name.

It's unrelated, but doesn't Crystal just kind of slightly sound like clitoris?

... Enough escaping from reality, let's think seriously here.

She is dangerous.

My hamster-like intuition that has helped me stay away from heroes for a thousand years is telling me that.

I won't make myself her enemy.

It seems like Rei met her on amicable terms already, so I can't help but saying GJ to her. Next time I meet her, I'll pat her head.

Unlike Asuka, Rei doesn't ask for things like that herself.

Now then, I should think about this.

First of all, should I contact that child named Ria directly?

Ah, she has that Dragon Eyes gift though, wouldn't my true identity be exposed?

What to do... Maybe I'll leave it to Asuka after all? If I take into account my movements in the future, it would probably be easier with that child.

But still, for Asuka to not notice is a bit... no, very thoughtless.

It seems that child doesn't hold any discrimination against beastkin

and ogres, so she might be able to calmly associate with demon tribe members. She might become a comrade unexpectedly easy...

That child is a muscle brain after all.

Normally, you wouldn't pick a fight with a country's hero the first time you meet them.

That's what you call a battle junkie.

For someone like me that was a high school student growing up in peaceful Japan, please pardon me from being her opponent.

But you know, she probably challenged her to a fight to see through her skills or something.

On top of that, that child used a Japanese katana.

Why a katana? In this world, aren't those mostly used in just the south?

No matter how you look at it she's a human from this world though, I know she isn't a summoned hero. It's impossible~

But you know, her movements were weird.

I think I've seen them in Japan in my previous life. They're kind of like Chinese martial arts.

Maybe she's a reincarnated person?

I think she would be the first reincarnator with Dragon's Bloodline though?

I don't want to fight her~

I don't want to fight her degozaru! I definitely don't want to fight her degozaru!

But that child has such a feeling of blood, I won't fight against her. She's messed up in so many ways...

—Wait, isn't she the same as a demon!?

To go through that bloody death march from back then again... no no, the opponent this time is one person. There's no way it'd be as bad as that.

Luckily it looks like she's forming a friendship with Carla, maybe I could talk to her using that?

Haaah, so much to think about still.

Right now something needs to be done about Cordova.

Come on already, the pitiful country.

They put too much strength into their military, they aren't balanced at

all. Its people are starving, it's giving preferential treatment towards its expanding military, it's suppressing unrest with that same military, and is invading other countries to further bolster its military.

I'll end that~

That's the first country to tidy up. There should be a system that manages the nation's burdens fairly with impartial laws.

As soon as I took my eyes off it, this happened. A neglectful government isn't constitutional, it's not something to joke about!

No choice but to dismantle it a bit huh? But even so, if I make a mistake there'll a river of blood.

Let's think about somewhere else for a bit.

Istria's doing fine. At any rate, that prince is more or less trying to put a slave emancipation policy through.

It probably doesn't have much chance at succeeding, but it's probably a good thing to let the idea slowly work its way through.

Humans and demons living together. It'll be a lot harder than getting rid of slavery, but I'm fired up to see if that prince can do it. That Strategist-dono is a good person.

... But even now it hasn't been able to end that civil war. No, I guess that's just human nature. Even I couldn't end it...

As for Lemdria... King Hollyn, please live a long life. That guy is the type who'll keep his body all natural though, he hates life prolongation magic. Though from my point of view, adding a hundred years is nothing.

That successor crisis is a problem. Those brothers are on good terms, but it's all about principles. Particularly that prince Sion. Despite having a bad head for warfare, he's generally pretty smart.

I'd be happy if he became an army commander, but the method used to handle demon tribe armies are different to begin with huh...

Black Cat's people are also concentrating there, so maybe I'd just be stirring up trouble by getting involved?

For Casalia... it made a bit of a mistake in leadership.

I mean, it caused a bit of internal mayhem, but it was the last resort. That wasn't my goal.

Something like directly assassinating a minister isn't my hobby or anything. Even if I had to kill the witnesses, it couldn't be helped you

know?

Well for a while I'll need to concentrate on Cordova, so maybe I should send some eyes over there and monitor them directly?

I'll purge any mistakes immediately, no different from a dictator I guess.

Ah, right. When I complete the first stage I should head back to the demon tribe territory for a bit.

Although I'm receiving reports, leaving it all to my prime minister would just be like one of the human world's imbecilic monarchs.

Even though there are a lot of races with long lifespans in the demon tribe, it's necessary to reform them as well.

... The number of battle hungry people is probably going to increase again... troublesome.

... Come to think of it, it's almost dinner time huh?

The cuisine in demon tribe territory is delicious, but this inn's cooking just can't be beat. That's why I chose it after all.

Hmmm, I wonder what today's dish will be?

Putting on into my sandals, I left the room.

Smells like stew. My nose isn't wrong about these things.

I still have a lot of stuff to think about, but satisfying this hunger of mine right now is Justice~!

While humming a song, I went down the stairs. The end.

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